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23 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Inter-Agency Views on NIE-53/1: Review of Probable  
Soviet Courses of Action with Respect to Germany  
during 1952 in the Light of Recent Soviet Moves

BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was prepared in response to the IAC discussion of Monday, 14 April (IAC-M-67, para. 6), concerning the likelihood of a Soviet attempt to promote a broad relaxation of tensions. The Board felt that the recent Soviet notes dealing with Germany were by far the most important moves open to a "relaxation of tensions" interpretation, and that the significance of these notes was the aspect of these moves that could best be estimated at this time, as a sequel to NIE-53.

SUBSTANCE

2. The IAC agency representatives agreed with the basic conclusion of this short paper — that NIE-53 remains firm and that the Soviet notes, to date, do not, in themselves, indicate shift in Soviet policy toward Germany.

3. As in NIE-53, the Air Force feels that more emphasis should be given to the possibility that the Soviets might make real concessions to block the integration of West Germany with the West and West German rearmament. The Board and the other IAC agencies feel that this possibility is dealt with adequately in this draft. The Air Force will presumably propose a footnote stating its view.

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SCOPE

4. ONI's representative expressed the view that another estimate was needed on broader questions of Soviet political warfare tactics and of non-Communist resolution to rearm and carry out the measures envisaged by present US policy. ONI may develop its views at the meeting. The Board believes that the scope of any estimate on these matters should be defined with precision, since there is now in preparation NIE-64, due 1 July, dealing with the whole question of probable Soviet courses of action over the next year.

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Assistant Director  
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